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patent by VICTOR EMMANUEL CASSAR as filed on 17 April 2002.

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Applicant(s):

VICTOR EMMANUEL CASSAR

Invention Title:

A MAGNETIC HOLDER

The invention is described in the following statement:

A MAGNETIC HOLDER

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a magnetic holder. The present invention also relates to an arrangement for packaging magnets.

10 Background of the Invention

A magnet is often used to hold an article. A typical magnet is composed of a hard, metallic material and, in use, attractive magnetic forces between the magnet and a magnetisable material are exploited to hold the article.

15 Magnets find application in heavy industry, but are also used for domestic purposes. An example for the latter is the well-known fridge-magnet. Such a magnet is arranged to hold an article on a metallic door of a refrigerator. In this or similar applications the article is clamped
20 between a metallic surface and a face of the magnet or alternatively the article is attached to the magnet which may be in direct contact with the metallic surface. Care must be taken to avoid that the magnet does not scratch or otherwise damages the article or the metallic surface.

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Summary of the invention

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a magnetic holder, the holder comprising:

- 30
- a magnet arranged to couple with a magnetisable material, and
 - a protective means to locate the magnet and to cover at least a portion of the magnet such that, in use, at

least a portion of the protective means is positioned between the magnet and the magnetisable material.

The protective means preferably is formed from a flexible material such as a polymeric material.

5 The protective means preferably is arranged to enclose the magnet and most preferably is waterproof. The protective means most preferably comprises a pocket formed from two layers of the flexible material.

10 The magnet may be one of a plurality of magnets and the protective means may be one of a plurality of protective means. Each magnet preferably is enclosed by an individual protective means. Individual ones of the protective means may be joined together to form a strip of protective means arranged to accommodate the magnets. A
15 flexible joint preferably joins individual ones of the protective means. The strip of joined protective means most preferably is predominantly composed of a flexible material such as a polymeric material.

20 The above-defined holder for an article has a range of applications. If the holder comprises one high-strength magnet and one protective means enclosing the magnet, the holder may for example be used to locate the article on a magnetisable material such as a door of a refrigerator. The protective means reduced likelihood of damaging or
25 scratching of the article or of the magnetisable material by the magnet.

30 If the holder comprises a strip of protective means formed by a plurality of individual protective means that are joined and each accommodate one of the magnets, additional applications are possible. In particular, if the strip of protective means is composed of a flexible material and the magnets are of high strength the holder is suitable for many purposes. The magnetisable material

to which, in use, at least one of the magnets attaches may be the article itself or another one of the magnets of the holder. For example the strip may be used to enclose the article by forming a loop which may be closed by

5 individually magnets of the strip clipping to each other.

Usually the holder does not need to be adjusted to hold the article. The article may be one of many articles and the holder may be arranged to hold together all of the articles. The holder may hold together shower curtains and
10 may also be used to secure fly-screen on cars or tents.

Further, the holder may be used to hold together garments, to hold name-tags, and may find application as a cloth peg or may even be used to hold doors open. A person skilled in the art will appreciate that many more applications are
15 possible.

The holder may also comprise at least one means for carrying an article. The means for carrying the article may, for example, be provided in form of a hook or hole adapted to receive a portion of the article.

20 The protective means may comprise a label which may be used for advertising purposes.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided an arrangement for packaging magnets, the arrangement comprising:

- 25
- a plurality of magnets and
 - a plurality of pockets, the pockets being connected by a flexible material and each of the pockets locating one of the magnets.

Each of the pockets preferably is formed from a
30 flexible material such as a polymeric material.

The arrangement most preferably is formed from two layers of a flexible material.

Each pocket preferably is arranged to enclose one of

the magnets and most preferably is waterproof.

The pockets may be sealed such that, when one of the magnets is unpacked, the respective pocket has to be cut or torn open to access the magnet. Alternatively, the
5 pockets may comprise openings to access the magnets.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

10 Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of a magnetic holder according to an embodiment of the present invention and

Figure 2 shows a cross-sectional representation of
15 the magnetic holder.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, an embodiment of the present invention is now described. The Figures show a
20 magnetic holder 10 comprising a protective means 12 arranged to locate and cover magnets 14. In this embodiment individual protective means 12 are connected to form a strip of protective means arranged to locate the magnets 14. In this example the strip of protective means
25 is formed from a polymeric material that is flexible and waterproof.

To form the holder, the magnets 14 are positioned between two sheets, 16 and 18, of the polymeric material and thermo-welding or ultrasonic welding is used to join
30 the sheets within a ring-like portion about each magnet such that the magnets are located.

Although the invention has been described with reference to particular examples, it will be appreciated

by those skilled in the art that the invention may be embodied in many other forms. For example, the holder may comprise only one magnet accommodated by one protective means. Also, each protective means may or may not fully
5 enclose an individual magnet. If the holder comprises a plurality of protective means, the individual protective means may be joined to form a strip of protective means. However, it will be appreciated that alternatively they may be joined together to form a square or any other
10 shape.

The above-described strip with magnets also relates to another embodiment of the present invention. In this other embodiment the strip forms an arrangement for packaging magnets and comprises a plurality of pockets
15 that are joined together and are used to accommodate the magnets. In this case the strip is also composed of a waterproof polymeric material. Again, the person skilled in the art will appreciate that the pockets may also be joined together to form a geometrical shape other than a
20 strip.

The claims defining the invention are:

1. A magnetic holder, the holder comprising:

- a magnet arranged to couple with a magnetisable material, and
- a protective means to locate the magnet and to cover at least a portion of the magnet such that, in use, at least a portion of the protective means is positioned between the magnet and the magnetisable material.

2. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the protective means is formed from a flexible material.

3. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 2 wherein the material is a polymeric material.

4. A magnetic holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the protective means is arranged to enclose the magnet.

5. A magnetic holder as claimed in any one of the claims 2 to 4 wherein the protective means comprises a pocket formed from two layers of the flexible material.

6. A magnetic holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the magnet is one of a plurality of magnets and the protective means is one of a plurality of protective means.

7. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 6 wherein each magnet is enclosed by an individual protective means.

8. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein

individual ones of the protective means are joined together to form a strip of protective means arranged to accommodate the magnets.

5 9. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 8 wherein a flexible joint joins individual ones of the protective means.

10 10. A magnetic holder as claimed in claim 9 wherein the strip of joined protective means is predominantly composed of a polymeric material.

11. A magnetic holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the protective means comprises a
15 label which may be used for advertising purposes.

12. A magnetic holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims comprising at least one means for carrying an article.

20

13. An arrangement for packaging magnets, the arrangement comprising:

- a plurality of magnets and
- a plurality of pockets, the pockets being
25 connected by a flexible material and each of the pockets locating one of the magnets.

14. An arrangement for packaging magnets as claimed in claim 13 wherein the pockets are formed from a flexible
30 material.

15. An arrangement for packaging magnets as claimed in claim 13 or 14 wherein each of the pockets is arranged to

enclose one of the magnets.

16. An arrangement for packaging magnets as claimed in claim 13 when formed from a flexible polymeric material.

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17. An arrangement for packaging magnets as claimed in claim 13 when formed from two layers of a flexible material.

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Dated this 17th day of April 2002

VICTOR EMMANUEL CASSAR

By his Patent Attorneys

GRIFFITH HACK

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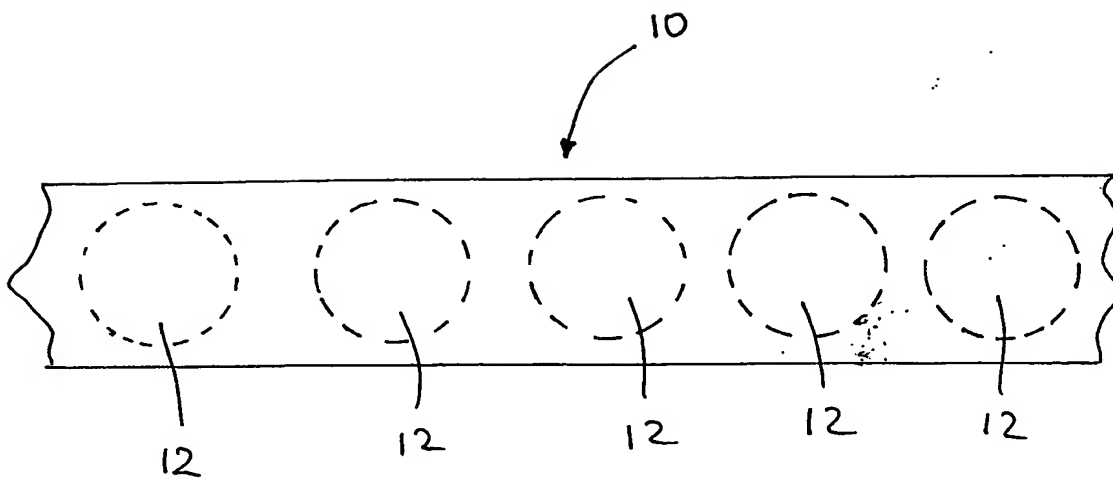


Fig. 1.

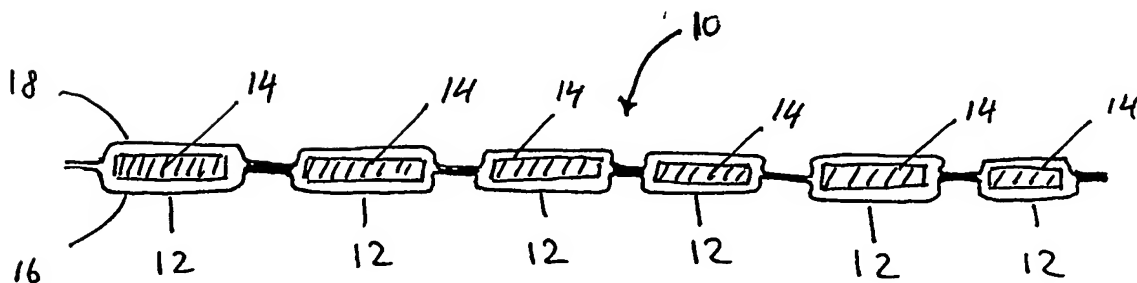


Fig. 2